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PATENT *Amsta*

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: BOWER, ROBERT W.  
Serial No.: 10/051,623  
Filed: JANUARY 17, 2002  
For: TRANSPOSED SPLIT OF ION CUT MATERIALS  
Group No.:  
Examiner:  
Docket No.: BOW5075.10A

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

### FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

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